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Humanitarian Politics

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regarding freedom of communication between mission and accrediting State, and regarding the accrediting State's use of the mission locale. A title on sanctions for violations of diplomatic law focuses both on such sanctions in the context of an individual diplomatic agent and the larger issues of diplomatic rupture of relations and its juridical consequences.

Part Two briefly compares diplomatic and consular relations, ad hoc diplomacy, and statutes regarding foreign heads of state. The bulk of this part is devoted to multilateral diplomatic relations, such as the structure of permanent missions within the U.N. and the European Community system.

Salmon's systematic treatment of his subject makes the book straightforward without ignoring the complexity of the area. The analysis is woven in the context of over 700 judicial decisions and extracts from bilateral agreements. Salmon pays particular attention to the 1960 Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations to gauge the translation of customary law in modern practice and various departures. Overall, the book provides a provocative resource for the specialist in the area, and a detailed treatise for the interested scholar.

Marco Madriz

MINEAR, LARRY and THOMAS G. WEISS, *HUMANITARIAN POLITICS*, Foreign Policy Association Headline Series, Foreign Policy Association, New York, NY (1995). (\$5.95); ISBN; 72 pp. (pbk).

Humanitarian Politics provides a good introduction to humanitarian relief and its interaction with political concerns. The authors focus particularly on the post-Cold War era and the additional problems that arise out of the changing political conditions. A significant new development is the changed nature of armed conflict. In the contemporary world, most conflict occurs within, rather than between, states, a problem which complicates the formulation and implementation of solutions to the humanitarian problems that these conflicts create. Emerging along with this political complexity is a new urgency. Minear and Weiss point out that the number of people involved in humanitarian emergencies rose dramatically in the 1990's, making effective solutions to humanitarian crises all the more critical.

Having established the importance of effective humanitarian action, Minear and Weiss sketch the basics of existing approaches and the actors who implement them, and then set out the principles of their preferred model for humanitarian politics. While in the past, humanitarianism has been subordinated to political interest or vice versa, the correct approach, the authors contend, is for humanitarianism and politics to proceed on parallel tracks. This parallelism describes both the connection and the separation which Minear and

Weiss believe to be essential. The two tracks need to be aware of each other but if they become entangled and confused, goals and means become muddled and unlikely to succeed.

Throughout the book, Minear and Weiss support their argument with examples from historical and contemporary events. They conclude their book with recommendations about the implementation of their model by the UN and other international actors and a discussion about the implications for U.S. foreign policy. In addition to surveying the relationship between humanitarianism and political realism, *Humanitarian Politics* provides the reader with an annotated reading list covering a variety of relevant topics in human rights, humanitarian relief and international security. The authors also include discussion questions for use in seminars or classroom settings.

Amy Eckert

